

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 SAM-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07

NEA-10 /131 W

----- 058813

O 281230Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6029

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC, IT, US

SUBJECT: MTN: EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS PROPOSAL - TOBACCO GSP

REF: (A) STATE 48126, (B) STATE 44621

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL (A), EMBOFF DISCUSSED USG POSITION

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RE EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO EXPAND GSP FOR TOBACCO WITH

MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) REP SIMEONE (DIRECTOR, GATT/EC AFFAIRS) ON FEBRUARY 28. SIMEONE SAID HE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD USG POSITION AND APPRECIATED USEC'S DISCUSSION THIS MATTER WITH ITALIAN PERMREPS. USG POSITION WILL ONLY STRENGTHEN ITALIAN RESOLVE NOT RPT NOT TO INCLUDE TOBACCO (BEYOND 38,000 MT QUOTA ALREADY IN EXISTENCE UNDER PRESENT EC GSP SCHEME) IN EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER, HE STATED.

2. SIMEONE SAID GOI DID NOT RPT NOT MOVE FROM ITS PREVIOUS POSITION IN COREPER DISCUSSIONS FEBRUARY 27 DESPTIE SEVERE PRESSURES FROM COMMISSION AND SOME OTHER EC DELEGATIONS TO DO SO. HE INDICATED THAT LOME COUNTRIES ARE NOW PRESSURING EC COMMISSION NOT RPT NOT TO INCLUDE TOBACCO IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER, AS THIS WOULD ERODE THEIR PRESENT PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO THE EC MARKET UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION.

3. ACCORDING TO SIMEONE, EC COUNCIL ON MARCH 1 WILL ESTABLISH GROUP OF EXPERTS TO REVIEW EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER. HE STATED THAT GOI EXPERT (WHICH MAY BE SIMEONE) WOULD BE UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS NOT RPT NOT TO INCLUDE TOBACCO IN EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER.

4. SIMEONE STATED, NOT ONCE BUT SEVERAL TIMES DURING CONVERSATION, THAT GOI UNABLE RPT UNABLE GIVE ANY ASSURANCES THAT IT WILLING NEGOTIATE TOBACCO ON MFN BASIS DURING MTN.

5. SIMEONE SAID THAT INFO RE US TOBACCO TRADE REACTION TO INCLUSION OF TOBACCO IN EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER (PARA 3 REFTEL A) SHOULD HAVE SALUTORY EFFECT ON COMMISSION.BEAUDRY

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